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INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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**Excise Police Arrest 7 at Ft. Wayne Bar**

**FORT WAYNE, Ind. (March 27)** – Indiana State Excise Police assisted employees at a Fort Wayne bar with checking identifications resulting in the arrest of seven minors last night.

Excise officers issued 18 summonses to seven people at Rusty Spur, 10350 Leo Road in Fort Wayne on various charges. Officers examined questionable forms of identifications of those entering the Rusty Spur. All who were arrested attempted to enter with some form of false identification.

A 19-year-old from Fort Wayne was cited on preliminary charges of being in a tavern, possession of false ID and illegal consumption of alcohol. Excise officers ticketed this same person in Nov. 2013 for illegal possession of alcohol and possession of false ID.

Officers also cited another 19 year old and five 20 year olds for being in a tavern and possession of false IDs. Three of them were also charged with making a false statement of age to a bar employee.

“State Excise Police Officers will continue to work diligently to ensure that minors who use counterfeit identifications to enter alcohol permit locations are prosecuted,” Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. “The State Excise Police is committed to protecting the safety of youth by enforcing the laws that prohibit the use of counterfeit identifications to trick clerks and servers working in bars and package stores into serving or selling them alcoholic beverages.”

All of those cited last night will appear in Allen Superior Court on future dates.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana’s Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

*Criminal Charges: All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*